

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

**Letter dated 25 April 2007 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The mandate of my Special Representative for Somalia, François Lonseny Fall, will expire on 8 May 2007.

The international community is concerned by the recent developments in the situation on the ground in Somalia. While it has welcomed the announcement by President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed to the Transitional Federal Parliament that a national reconciliation congress would be held in Mogadishu on 16 April 2007, the delay in its convening has added to the complexity of the situation. Since his appointment, Mr. Fall has worked assiduously to support the national reconciliation process and assist the Transitional Federal Government in strengthening the structures of governance, in line with the Transitional Federal Charter.

Mr. Fall and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), in close cooperation with the United Nations country team, are playing a central role in the coordination of international political support and financial, humanitarian and development assistance to both the people of Somalia and the institutions of the Transitional Federal Government.

In view of the developments in Somalia and the need for the United Nations to continue to play a primary role in the settlement of the conflict, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1744 (2007), it is my intention to extend the mandate of my Special Representative for Somalia until 8 May 2008. I should be grateful if you could bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ban Ki-moon**



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 25 April 2007 (S/2007/243) concerning your intention to extend the mandate of your Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) until 8 May 2008 has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information and intention contained in your letter, although they underline that the Secretary-General might revisit the mandate in, for example, six months, given the possibility that the United Nations might decide to change the nature of its presence in Somalia during this period.

(Signed) Emyr Jones Parry
President of the Security Council



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 19 April 2007 (S/2007/218), conveying the communication from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concerning the activities of the IAEA pursuant to resolution 687 (1991) and related resolutions, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Emyr **Jones Parry**
President of the Security Council



**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

**General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 19
Question of Cyprus****Security Council
Sixty-second year****Letter dated 27 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of
Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon the instruction of my Government, I am writing the present letter to convey the views of Turkey in the wake of the recent developments about the Cyprus issue.

The Greek Cypriot side, encouraged by its membership in the European Union, is yet again pursuing a policy that generates tension in the eastern Mediterranean. By its attitude and actions, the Greek Cypriot side not only continues to be a source of instability in the area but also further complicates the efforts aimed at bringing a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem.

According to the Treaties of Establishment, Alliance and Guarantee of 1960, Turkey, Greece and Great Britain are the guarantor States in the context of Cyprus, and any military arrangement on the island is subject to their consent. In defiance of the stipulations of the above-mentioned international treaties, the Greek Cypriot side has recently signed an "Agreement in the Field of Defence" with France. This Agreement undoubtedly contravenes the 1960 state of affairs. Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have declared the Agreement null and void, given that the Greek Cypriot Administration has no right or legitimacy to claim or to act on behalf of the whole island and, as such, is neither entitled nor authorized to sign agreements of this nature.

Another example of the provocative policy pursued by the Greek Cypriot side regards delimiting maritime jurisdiction areas in the eastern Mediterranean. Bilateral agreements signed by the Greek Cypriot side in this regard prejudice the fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriot people and run counter to international law. Maritime delimitation in a semi-enclosed sea like the eastern Mediterranean can only be effected by agreement, with the consent of all parties concerned and by respecting their mutual rights. Apart from the rights of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Turkey, under international law, has legitimate rights and interests in the eastern Mediterranean and is resolved to defend them. Moreover, as will be recalled, owing to the potential implications involved, the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan of 2004 deliberately left out this subject, with the



understanding that it would be determined by the "Parliament of the new Partnership State" following the comprehensive settlement.

At the core of the problem stands the unlawful claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the legitimate successor of the Government of "the Republic of Cyprus" of 1960. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 186 (1964) which, in paragraph 4, recommended the creation, "with the consent of the Government of Cyprus", of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot side has been portraying itself as the sole owner of the title of "Government of Cyprus" and is conducting day-to-day business in international forums as if it represented the island and its peoples as a whole.

In fact, at the time the resolution was adopted, the Turkish Cypriots, the Government of Turkey and the United Kingdom did register their understanding with the United Nations that the "consent of the Government of Cyprus" would mean the consent of a Government that was established and functioning in accordance with the 1960 treaties, and the Greek Cypriot Administration has not been the Government that the 1960 Constitution envisioned.

The views and reservation of the Government of Turkey on this issue were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and of then Secretary-General U Thant, both orally and in writing, on many occasions during the period before and after the adoption of resolution 186 (1964). All relevant documents can be found in the United Nations archives.

The resolution did not create a legal right for the perpetuation of "Government of Cyprus" status and cannot be used as a basis for jurisdiction over the entire island, as is the case with the signing of the delineation agreements. In other words, the island of Cyprus is governed neither legally nor in its totality by the Greek Cypriot side.

Turkey therefore holds the view that resolution 186 (1964) should be revisited due to the facts that have emerged on the Cyprus issue following the simultaneous referendums on the United Nations Settlement Plan. The very same facts have also created the necessity for revision of Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), which have become tools for suppressing and isolating the Turkish Cypriot people.

In his report of 28 May 2004 to the Security Council, your predecessor, Kofi Annan, addressed the unfair isolations and underlined that efforts towards ending the restrictions did not contradict Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984). I quote: "this [Turkish Cypriot] vote has undone whatever rationale might have existed for pressuring and isolating them ... I would hope they [members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)". It is still not late for the Security Council to take action on the report, which will bring about a new perspective.

Recent developments have shown once again the urgency of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. However, prospect for a solution seems bleak owing to the ongoing unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot side. The process, which was initiated on 8 July 2006 to prepare the ground for a comprehensive settlement,

seems to be deadlocked owing to Greek Cypriot delaying tactics. The Turkish side has supported the 8 July process from the outset, with the expectation that it would lead to meaningful and fully fledged negotiations for a comprehensive settlement. Apparently, pursuant to the referendums and their accession to the European Union, the Greek Cypriots have attempted to shift the basis of the Cyprus question from the United Nations to the European Union. In line with this new attitude, they distance themselves from any process initiated by the United Nations.

In his letter to you dated 3 April 2007, Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, explained very clearly why the Greek Cypriot side should not be allowed to exploit this process. President Talat warned that without a specific timetable and predetermined topics, the whole process would turn into "talking shops" that could be used by the Greek Cypriot side to achieve its declared policy of "osmosis". Finally, he expressed his readiness to engage without delay in fully fledged negotiations under the United Nations framework. Turkey shares President Talat's concerns and fully supports him in his endeavours.

Turkey keeps its determination to contribute to the efforts to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem under your mission of good offices as well as under the long-established United Nations framework and parameters, namely for, political equality, bizonality, equal status and a new Partnership State.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
1 May 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

**Identical letters dated 30 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you hereinafter a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 15 to 21 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 30 April 2007 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the
President of the Security Council**

**Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to
21 April 2007, inclusive**

Air violations

On 15 April 2007:

- Between 1000 and 1105 hours two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, heading north over the Shab'a Farms, circled over the sea between Shikka and Tripoli, headed east and circled over Baalbek and Hirmil, then left Lebanese airspace over the said Farms;
- Between 1200 and 1320 hours two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Shikka, proceeded south as far as Nabatiah, then turned back and left over the sea off Shikka.

On 16 April 2007:

- Between 0110 and 0155 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Tyre, proceeded as far as Sidon, circled over the regions of the South, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

On 17 April 2007:

- Between 1010 and 1230 hours hostile military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area;
- At 1832 hours an Israeli enemy helicopter took off from Mazra'at Fashkul and violated Lebanese airspace over the Mazra't al-Majidiyah for a few seconds at medium altitude, then returned to occupied Palestinian territory;
- Between 2230 and 2315 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Naqurah, overflew the sea, proceeding as far as Damur, then left Lebanese airspace via the same place where it had entered.

On 20 April 2007:

- Between 1008 and 1038 hours eight Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah, Rumaysh and Aytarun, proceeding north as far as a point east of Sidon, next headed towards the Bekaa, proceeding as far as Hirmil, then continued towards the sea, passing over the Cedars and Shikka and returned towards the south;
- Between 1246 and 1324 hours two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering off Tyre and proceeding as far as Markaba, continued in a northerly direction as far as Shikka, circled over Sidon and Iqlim al-Kharrub, then left Lebanese airspace over Naqurah;
- Between 1500 and 1555 hours four Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Alma al-Sha'b, proceeded as far as Shikka, overflew all the regions of Lebanon, then left over the sea off Naqurah;

- Between 1700 and 2300 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Alma al-Sha'b, heading north, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Rumaysh;
- At 2300 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Naqurah, circled over the South, then left over Alma al-Sha'b at 0205 hours on 21 April 2007.

On 21 April 2007:

- Between 0959 and 1320 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah, circled over the South, then left over Rumaysh;
- Between 1305 and 1610 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b, circled over the regions of the South, then left over Naqurah.

Sea violations

On 20 April 2007, at 0100 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat fired an illumination flare over a Lebanese fishing boat while the latter was in territorial waters at a distance of 205 metres north of the buoy line. It then returned and fired a second flare over it at 0120 hours, when it was at a distance of 60 metres north of the said line.

Field violations

On 15 April 2007, at 1500 hours, an Israeli patrol confronted two Lebanese farmers who were ploughing their land near the border in the Haybara area (outside the town of Blida) and fired two smoke bombs at them, forcing them to leave.

On 20 April 2007, at 1200 hours, a Merkava tank proceeded from the Al-Hadb enemy Israeli position (opposite Yarun) and stationed itself opposite the Lebanese Army's Al-Khirba position, aimed its guns towards the latter, then returned to its post at 1212 hours.

Other Israeli activities

On 18 April 2007, between 0900 and 1830 hours, two Poclair backhoes and a bulldozer belonging to the Israeli enemy performed excavation work between the Blue Line and the technical line (opposite the village of Ayta al-Sha'b).



Security Council

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 28 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ban Ki-moon**



Annex

**Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Secretary-General
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to
the Secretary-General**

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on KFOR operations covering the period 1 to 28 February 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jaap **de Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 28 February 2007.
2. As at 25 February 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,085, which included 2,532 troops from non-NATO countries.
3. There was no change to the status of NATO/NATO partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Political situation

4. The United Nations Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, presented his draft comprehensive proposal for a Kosovo status settlement to Belgrade and Pristina on 2 February 2007. Reactions in Kosovo were mixed, Kosovo Albanian political leaders reacted positively to the Special Envoy's proposal. Kosovo Serbs rejected the proposal as did radical Kosovo Albanians. A violent demonstration, organized by the Movement for Self-Determination (MSD) in Pristina on 10 February 2007, targeted Mr. Ahtisaari's proposal. The demonstration resulted in two deaths, and the MSD leader, Albin Kurti, was arrested. As a consequence of the events, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, Fatmir Rexhepi, resigned on 12 February 2007. Shortly thereafter, on 14 February 2007, UNMIK Police Commissioner Steven Curtis also resigned upon the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

5. Former Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj arrived in The Hague on 26 February 2007, to appear before the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on war crimes charges. Before his departure, he met with all Kosovo Albanian political leaders and with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ruecker. In his statement at the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) presidency meeting, Haradinaj called on the population to be responsible and to refrain from violence. The bombing of a United Nations vehicle in Pristina on 19 February 2007, alleged to have been carried out by the "renewed Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)", was condemned by all political forces in Kosovo, as well as the Kosovo Protection Corps Headquarters.

Security situation

6. During the reporting period, no inter-ethnic incidents were reported.
7. During the reporting period, no incidents against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) were recorded.
8. A total of 262 incidents related to unexploded ordnance (76), illegal weapons possession (105), weapons and ammunition findings (16), drugs (20), counterfeit currency (20), smuggling (21) and human trafficking (4) were reported during the past month, compared to 308 in the previous month.
9. KFOR continued to conduct framework operations. The operational tempo remained high in anticipation of possible demonstrations, popular reactions to the final status and further reactions from the 10 February 2007 demonstration in Pristina. KFOR continued to gather intelligence and improve situational awareness

regarding reactions to the future status proposal. Multinational Task Forces maintained a reinforced presence in specific areas to deter any potential violence and to help maintain a safe and secure environment. KFOR activity in the sector of Camp Nothing Hill continued.

Compliance

10. Two major cases of non-compliance with the statement of principles of the KFOR Commander and UNMIK Regulation 1999/8 were decided at the Disciplinary Board meeting of 19 February. Brigadier General Nuredin Lushtaku was suspended for four months, with pay, until the next meeting of the Disciplinary Board, and was fined 20 per cent of his salary. Captain Agim Buja was sanctioned and received a written warning and a delay in promotion.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current active personnel establishment is 3,030. There are 210 (6.93 per cent) active ethnic minority members (180 males, 30 females), 36 Ashkalis, 4 Romas, 12 Egyptians, 19 Croats, 53 Bosniaks, 38 Turks, 1 Goran and 47 Serbs. The total number of ethnic minorities decreased by 1 member (Kosovo Serb), compare to last month.

12. During the month of February there were nine ceremonies, which involved more than 110 KPC members and more than 900 civilians. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

13. The overall situation in Kosovo remains calm but the political and diplomatic uncertainty related to the future status process may cause tension in the near term. KFOR remains fully ready to support UNMIK and the local authorities in their response to potential unrest as the situation evolves. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level against KFOR remains low.

**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
27 April 2007
English
Original: Spanish

**General Assembly
Sixty-first session**

Agenda items 66, 80 and 100

Right of peoples to self-determination

**The rule of law at the national and
international levels**

**Measures to eliminate international
terrorism**

**Security Council
Sixty-second year**

**Letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to the decision of a court of the United States of America to grant the release on bail of the terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is of the view that the release of Luis Posada Carriles is an act of the utmost contempt for justice and for the victims of terrorism.

In light of the importance of this matter, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the official communiqué of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, dated 22 April 2007, which calls for a firm response from Governments and multilateral organizations to prevent impunity for the promoters and perpetrators of terrorist acts and reiterates the request made to the Government of the United States of America for the immediate extradition of Luis Posada Carriles (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 66, 80 and 100, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aura Mahuampi **Rodriguez de Ortiz**
Alternate Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

**Communiqué of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: release
of Posada Carriles shows utmost contempt for justice and for
the victims of terrorism**

22 April 2007

The release of the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles is the final result of the manoeuvre set in motion by the Government of George W. Bush to protect him, thereby promoting impunity and shamelessly mocking the memory of the victims of the bombing of the Cubana Airlines flight in 1976.

This act of complicity committed by the unprincipled leader of the United States of America is an attempt to buy the silence of Posada Carriles, who during his many years of criminal activity was an agent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency and a key figure of the Bush clan, as the declassified documents of the United States Government have shown. He is therefore in possession of valuable information about the criminal activities against the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since the 1970s, this terrorist has been involved in numerous plots to track down, torture and assassinate men and women throughout the length and breadth of our continent. His most notorious crimes were the bombing of the Cuban plane in Barbados, the torture and murder of social leaders in Venezuela, his support for terrorist operations in Central America against Nicaragua and El Salvador, and the killing with explosives of tourists in Cuba, among other crimes for which he is responsible.

The United States Government had available to it various options for legally detaining him by declaring him a terrorist, as it is quick to do when it suits its purpose, but it chose instead to release him. He could also have been detained on immigration charges of illegal entry or held pending extradition, as requested by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the extradition agreement it has signed with the United States of America.

The idea of continuing to use his services to act against the continent's leaders could have been the reason for his release. Releasing a known terrorist is a decision that illustrates and confirms the double standard of a Government which claims to be fighting terrorism while at the same time it supports these murderous acts by its own conduct.

This regrettable decision has been taken today, 19 April, a historic day for Latin American independence. It is a decision that shows utter disrespect for justice and for the victims of terrorism. The conscience of the peoples of Latin America will relentlessly pursue terrorists and one of their principal accomplices, the current President of the United States of America.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela calls upon international public opinion and upon peoples everywhere to mobilize and on Governments and multilateral organizations to take firm action so that terrorists and their backers do not go unpunished and reiterates its request to the Government of the United States of America for the immediate extradition of this dangerous criminal.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Original: English

Progress report of the Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to operative paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 1741 (2007) of 30 January 2007, in which the Council requested me to include in my next report details of the progress made towards the implementation of this resolution and of the Delimitation Decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission of 13 April 2002. The report also provides an update on the activities of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) since my last report (S/2007/33), of 22 January 2007, and covers the situation until 22 April 2007.

II. Recent developments**Military situation**

2. During the reporting period, the military situation in the Temporary Security Zone and the adjacent areas has remained tense and volatile. Troops of Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) that entered the Zone in Sector West in October 2006, along with tanks, artillery and air defence equipment, have remained in the areas of Maileba and Om Hajer. Moreover, EDF has continued to deploy additional troops in Sector West along the Tesseney-Maileba-Om Hajer, Barentu-Kerkese-Shambiko and Tukul-Mulki-Shambiko axes. According to UNMEE observations, Eritrea has deployed over 2,000 troops and some 1,200 militia in Sector West, accompanied by 16 tanks, 2 multiple-barrel rocket launcher systems and 7 air defence guns. In the meantime, the deployment of EDF elements in Sector Centre, which began in late December 2006, has also continued along the Adi Keyh-Keskesse-Senafe, Mai Aini-Tsorena and Mendefera-Dirko-Mereb bridge axes. Latest estimates suggest that approximately 1,700 suspected EDF elements have been deployed to Sector Centre. Since their entry into the Zone, EDF troops have been strengthening defence lines, particularly in the areas of Om Hajer and Shilalo in Sector West, and in the areas of Tsorena and Italian Fort in Sector Centre. In addition, Eritrea has deployed around 6 anti-aircraft guns around the area of Assab Airport in Subsector East.

3. At the same time, Ethiopia has progressively increased its military presence near the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone by moving forward heavy equipment and military personnel, particularly in Sector West and Subsector



East. As observed by UNMEE in Sector West, the Ethiopian Armed Forces (EAF) has deployed around 1,200 troops, 18 artillery guns, 4 120-mm mortars and 3 multiple-barrel rocket launcher systems, about 7 km from the southern boundary of the Zone in the area of Rawiyan, opposite from Om Hajer, and 16 artillery guns around the area of Adi Takalo. In addition, since 12 February, UNMEE has observed the deployment of 3 anti-aircraft guns, 3 vehicle-mounted rocket launchers, 17 artillery guns and 12 tanks in the vicinity of Bure, in Subsector East, within 3 to 5 km of the southern boundary of the Zone.

4. On 23 March, the Ethiopian authorities contacted UNMEE, asserting that Eritrea had recently moved additional tanks and heavy artillery into the Temporary Security Zone in the area of Om Hajer, in Sector West. However, UNMEE could not confirm these reports because of its considerably reduced monitoring capability, resulting from the restrictions imposed by Eritrea on the freedom of movement of its personnel in that Sector. Subsequently, between 5 and 10 April, UNMEE reported additional major EAF movements of troops, mortars, guns, ammunition and logistics equipment in the areas of Shiraro and Humera, and along the Inda Beguna-Adi Daro-Nebriid axis in Sector West, near the southern boundary of the Zone.

5. Despite increased military activities by both parties, the reporting period witnessed a perceptible reduction in cross-border incidents. However, on a number of occasions, UNMEE posts at critical locations had to diffuse tense situations along the border and investigate reports of cross-border incidents that included cattle-rustling and the repatriation of persons who inadvertently cross the border. While both parties have publicly maintained that they do not intend to resume hostilities, their increased military activities on the ground are consistent with possible preparations for a confrontation.

6. The kidnapping in early March 2007 by unknown assailants of five foreign and eight Ethiopian nationals, in the northern Afar desert of Ethiopia near the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone, has further exacerbated tension between the two countries. The foreign nationals and their Ethiopian escorts were released on 12 March and 23 April, respectively.

Restrictions on the freedom of movement of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

7. The considerable restrictions imposed by Eritrea on UNMEE, which I reported earlier to the Security Council, are still in place. The reporting period witnessed the imposition of additional severe restrictions on the movement of UNMEE patrols in Sector West and Sector Centre, particularly in areas where UNMEE observed ongoing military activities and the deployment of EDF troops and militia. Since 5 April, Eritrea has imposed new restrictions in the general area of Shilalo in Sector West, inside the Zone, curtailing all cross-border movement of UNMEE patrols in that area and causing major operational and logistical difficulties for the Mission. However, following a protest by UNMEE, Eritrea has partially lifted these new restrictions attributing them to unauthorized actions by local commanders.

8. As a result of these ongoing restrictions, UNMEE patrols are primarily limited to moving along the main supply routes and only in certain areas of Sector West and Sector Centre, inside the Temporary Security Zone. In addition, Eritrea has also maintained the crippling ban on United Nations helicopter flights, as well as the

reduction in the supply of fuel to UNMEE, which has serious negative consequences for its operational capability and ability to undertake contingency planning.

9. While attempting to investigate reports on EAF forward movement of troops, and the deployment of heavy equipment and weapons near the southern boundary of the Temporary Security Zone, UNMEE patrols have been denied access to EAF posts in the adjacent areas of the Zone. Ethiopian authorities have cited mine threats, which could compromise the safety of UNMEE patrols, as one of the reasons for limiting the movements. Nevertheless, UNMEE has reported that in some instances EAF has employed physical barriers to deny access of patrols to sensitive locations, particularly in Subsector East.

Military Coordination Commission

10. Since 29 July 2006, the meetings of the Military Coordination Commission have been suspended. Despite repeated attempts by UNMEE to convince the parties of the importance of the meetings of the Commission as a unique forum to discuss pressing military and security issues, the Ethiopian Government has maintained that it would only resume participation in the meetings of the Commission after Eritrea withdraws what Addis Ababa has described as heavy military equipment from the Temporary Security Zone. Meanwhile, Eritrea has claimed that Ethiopia's non-participation in the meetings of the Commission is a violation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. Eritrea has indicated that it will not participate in future activities of the Commission until UNMEE provides an official explanation for the suspension of the meetings since July 2006. UNMEE has continued to engage both parties in an effort to resolve their differences on this matter and enable the Commission to resume its work, which is critical in the light of the ongoing military build-up in the border areas.

Mine action

11. During the reporting period, UNMEE has continued to carry out humanitarian demining and Force demining protection. Despite encountering growing restrictions by Eritrea on the freedom of movement of UNMEE personnel in many areas in Sector Centre and Sector West, the Mission's Mine Action Coordination Centre has undertaken route clearance, mine risk education, explosive ordnance disposal works and other related activities. However, the Centre has been unable to ensure that routes are maintained free of mines, especially in Sector West, in particular with growing military activities by both parties.

12. On 16 March, the Eritrean authorities informed UNMEE of their decision to expel the Programme Manager of the Centre, alleging repeated violations of Eritrean laws and regulations. UNMEE contested the allegations before complying with the expulsion decision.

III. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1741 (2007)

Reconfiguration of the military component of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

13. As from early February, UNMEE began the downsizing of its military component from 2,300 to 1,700 personnel, including 230 military observers, in

accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1741 (2007). The strength of the Jordanian battalion was reduced from 750 to 500 personnel and the Jordanian level-II hospital from 60 to 40 personnel. These reductions were undertaken during rotation of Jordanian personnel in February. The Indian battalion was downsized from 850 to 600 personnel during its rotation in March and early April. The number of personnel of the Kenyan demining company was also reduced from 100 to 40 in March, while the reduction of personnel of the construction engineering company from 120 to 101 will be completed towards the end of April.

14. Since UNMEE has retained all existing military posts inside the Temporary Security Zone, the downsizing of the contingents has been achieved by reducing the number of personnel staffing each post. UNMEE has retained military posts in key sensitive areas of the Zone, including at its entry and exit points. Maintaining these posts will be crucial to avoid further erosion of the Mission capability to observe the movement of troops and heavy military equipment in and out of the Zone. With the restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMEE patrols, maintaining these static observation posts assumes a particular significance.

Reduction of the civilian component of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

15. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1681 (2006), UNMEE reduced its civilian staffing table by 23 international posts following the previous downsizing of its military component. In addition, the Mission is further reviewing its civilian staff requirements in view of the recent reconfiguration of the military component, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1741 (2007).

Cooperation of the parties in the implementation of relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1741 (2007)

16. Since its adoption on 30 January 2007, little progress has been made in securing the cooperation of both parties in the implementation of the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1741 (2007), as well as earlier Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1640 (2005).

17. On 1 February, I received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations in which, *inter alia*, he reiterated the position of his Government rejecting the appointment in August 2006 of the Deputy Special Representative, Azouz Ennifar, as my Acting Special Representative for UNMEE, and requesting the appointment of a new Special Representative. Under such circumstances, my Acting Special Representative has continued to discharge his responsibilities as head of UNMEE from Addis Ababa, since he is not permitted to travel to Eritrea. In the meantime, and as described in section II of the present report, Eritrea has increased its restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMEE personnel inside the Temporary Security Zone, and Ethiopia has denied access to certain EAF posts. Moreover, the two parties have continued to deploy troops and heavy equipment inside and in close proximity to the Zone, and have also intensified their exchange of serious accusation through public statements.

18. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 1741 (2007), the Security Council has called upon me and the international community to engage with Eritrea and Ethiopia to help them normalize their relations, to promote stability between them and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace in the region. Since the adoption of that resolution,

I have consulted with members of the Council, as well as with key regional and international partners, on the most appropriate approach to coordinating our efforts in order to take forward this request of the Security Council. In the light of these contacts, I am encouraged that some members of the international community continue to be engaged in promoting the improvement of relations and in attempts aimed at overcoming the current stalemate between the parties.

19. In the meantime, I have initiated contacts with the two parties to seek their views and express my readiness to engage with them in identifying expeditious and creative approaches to overcome the current stalemate, with a view to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission Delimitation Decision. During these initial contacts, Eritrea has reiterated that the Boundary Commission Delimitation Decision of 13 April 2002 is final and binding, and that it must, therefore, be fully implemented, as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 12 December 2000. For its part, Ethiopia has stressed that it has accepted the Delimitation Decision, while maintaining that the problems that may arise from the border demarcation can be resolved only through dialogue with Eritrea. In the meantime, Ethiopia has also continued to withhold payment of its share of the Boundary Commission expenses.

20. On 29 March, in an address to the House of People's Representatives, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia reiterated that his Government had accepted the Boundary Commission Decision and referred to earlier proposals for its implementation. On 13 April, the fifth anniversary of the Delimitation Decision, I received a letter from the President of Eritrea calling for a fresh and fair perspective in addressing the problem, and noting that continued failure to do so "... is fraught with and may precipitate a human tragedy that we earnestly wish to avoid ...".

IV. Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission

21. On 31 January 2007, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission closed its liaison office in Addis Ababa. A detailed report on the activities of the Commission during the reporting period is contained in the annex to the present report.

22. In view of the current impasse between the two parties, I regret to report that since the adoption of resolution 1741 (2007), no progress has been made towards the implementation of the Boundary Commission Delimitation Decision of 13 April 2002. In addition, during the reporting period, the Trust Fund established pursuant to paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1177 (1998) to support the boundary demarcation process has not received any additional voluntary contributions from Member States.

V. Human rights

23. During the reporting period, UNMEE has continued to collect first-hand information from victims and witnesses of human rights violations and abuses. In addition, the Mission has reported an increase in the number of individual cross-border cases, with many asylum-seekers fleeing Eritrea to Ethiopia.

24. Moreover, UNMEE has undertaken human rights-related capacity-building and promotional activities jointly with other stakeholders, mostly in Ethiopia. The capacity-building activities have targeted women's groups, judicial and law enforcement officials and university students. During the reporting period, UNMEE has noted an increase in demand for such activities.

25. In the meantime, UNMEE has continued to face constraints in the area of human rights monitoring and assistance, especially in the light of the limited resources available to the Mission in this regard, the ongoing restrictions on the movement of its personnel on key axes along the Temporary Security Zone and the requirement for human rights officers to obtain formal permission before communicating with the local authorities.

VI. Humanitarian activities

26. During the reporting period, the provision of humanitarian assistance in Eritrea continued to face significant challenges, especially in the light of limited presence by partners from non-governmental organizations and civil society. Despite encouraging reports by the World Food Programme (WFP) on high-yield cereal production in Eritrea last year, there are areas with limited or no harvest, thus threatening the food security of a significant section of Eritrean local residents. In the meantime, the activities of WFP are still suspended, following the decision by the Government of Eritrea to integrate all incoming food aid into its national food security policy.

27. In the meantime, the conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons in Eritrea remain relatively stable. Currently, Eritrea hosts 3,792 Somali refugees in the Emkulu camp near Massawa, and 752 Sudanese refugees in Elit refugee camp, in the Gash Barka region. In addition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Asmara registered 77 Ethiopian refugees and 1,896 asylum seekers, and approximately 14,500 Eritrean refugees at the Shimelba camp in Ethiopia. UNHCR has also continued its support to 250,000 returnees from the Sudan to Eritrea in the livelihood sector, particularly in the area of strengthening self-sufficiency through the construction of several micro-dams for increased irrigation. In addition, UNHCR is currently undertaking arrangements for the voluntary repatriation of a number of refugees from Eritrea to the Sudan.

28. In Ethiopia, an improved food security situation is anticipated for 2007 owing to increased harvest in many parts of the country. However, despite these positive prospects, an estimated 1.36 million people will continue to require emergency food assistance, owing to a combination of drought in some areas and severe flooding in others. The Ethiopian Government has introduced a new cluster approach aimed at ensuring better preparedness, greater accountability and capacity to respond during an emergency. In addition, acute watery diarrhoea is spreading to new areas, due to inadequate access to clean drinking water, the absence of proper sanitation facilities and unsafe hygienic practices.

VII. Observations

29. I am deeply concerned by the impasse in the Eritrea-Ethiopia peace process and by the growing tension between the two countries. The situation is exacerbated by hostile public statements, a volatile military and security situation in and around the Temporary Security Zone and the parties' involvement in other complex regional crises. This impasse continues to be a serious source of instability for the two countries, as well as for the wider region. The situation between the parties remains unpredictable, particularly given that the 12-month time frame, provided to the parties by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in its statement of 27 November 2006 regarding the demarcation of the border, will expire soon.

30. I urge both parties to refrain from hostile public statements and to withdraw their troops from positions within and in close proximity to the Temporary Security Zone. I also call upon them to cooperate with UNMEE, with a view to resuming the meetings of the Military Coordination Commission, which can help manage and diffuse tensions on the ground.

31. As I mentioned in my previous report (S/2007/33), the United Nations, and I personally, stand ready to assist the parties in their efforts to achieve the full implementation of the Algiers Agreements. I intend to continue to engage both parties and to consult with key regional and international partners in support of all efforts aimed at overcoming the present dangerous stalemate, and creating an environment conducive to reaching a lasting and comprehensive settlement. In this context, I am considering the appointment of a new Special Representative to lead UNMEE and to take forward all aspects pertaining to my engagement with the parties. At the same time, any efforts to improve relations between the parties can be successful only if they demonstrate the political will necessary to overcome the present stalemate, extend their full cooperation to UNMEE and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and exercise maximum restraint on the ground.

32. In this context, I am encouraged by the statement of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia of 29 March, that his Government has accepted the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission Delimitation Decision of 13 April 2002. However, Ethiopia's position regarding cooperation with the Boundary Commission in the implementation of the Decision remains a major factor of the current impasse, together with the growing tension between the two countries. Accordingly, the international community would welcome an indication by the Government of Ethiopia of its readiness to extend full cooperation to the Boundary Commission, so that the demarcation of the border can proceed without further delay or preconditions.

33. In the meantime, the ongoing and increased restrictions imposed by Eritrea on UNMEE's movement and operations represent a serious violation of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities of 18 June 2000, the 2001 Protocol Agreement of 17 June 2001 concluded between Eritrea and UNMEE, and relevant Security Council resolutions. These restrictions have further reduced the monitoring capability of the Mission inside the Temporary Security Zone and have impacted very negatively on its capacity to perform its mandated tasks. The international community continues to expect the Government of Eritrea to lift all such restrictions without further delay or preconditions. It is worth recalling, in this context, that UNMEE was originally deployed at the invitation of both parties.

34. Despite the further downsizing of its military component, the related implications for its overall operational capabilities and the ongoing restrictions that it has faced since 2005, UNMEE continues to play an important role in encouraging restraint between the parties, and sustaining international commitment to the Algiers Agreements and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission Delimitation Decision.

35. In conclusion, I wish to express gratitude to my Acting Special Representative and to all civilian and military personnel of the Mission for their continued commitment, hard work and perseverance, especially in the face of an increasingly difficult working environment. I would further like to thank all the partners of the Mission, including the United Nations country teams, humanitarian agencies, individual Member States, the African Union and other international organizations, for the support they continue to lend to the peace process. I also wish to pay a special tribute to the troop-contributing countries for their continued support to this peacekeeping operation.

Annex

Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: twenty-third report on the work of the Commission

1. This is the twenty-third report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 21 December 2006 to 31 March 2007. The previous report covered the period from 1 September to 20 December 2006.
2. As this is the Commission's first report to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the Commission wishes to express its good wishes to him on his appointment and looks forward to continuing the fruitful cooperation with him and his staff that it enjoyed under his predecessor.
3. In its previous report, the Commission indicated that it had not yet received any reaction from the Parties to the issuance of its Statement of 27 November 2006. The Commission regrets that the Parties have to date not yet proceeded as foreseen in paragraph 22 of the Statement, and, in particular, have not by themselves reached the necessary agreement on the emplacement of pillars, nor have they proceeded significantly to implement the Statement or enabled the Commission to resume its activity. The Commission stated further in paragraph 22 of the Statement that if the Parties did neither of the foregoing within 12 months of the issuance of the Statement, the Commission determined that the boundary would automatically stand as demarcated by the boundary points listed in the annex to the Statement and that the mandate of the Commission could then be regarded as fulfilled.
4. Nonetheless, the Commission wishes to reiterate its firm commitment, expressed in paragraph 28 of the Statement, that during the 12 months from the issuance of the Statement, it will remain willing to provide assistance in emplacing the boundary pillars if the Parties jointly so request and provide assurances of cooperation and security.
5. The Commission regrets the continued refusal of Ethiopia to pay its contribution to the Commission's work, as is required to by article 4 (17) of the Algiers Agreement. In its last report, the Commission indicated that it would be seeking support from the United Nations Trust Fund for Eritrea and Ethiopia to enable it to meet obligations that it had already incurred. The Commission has now been assured that it will receive the assistance it has sought. It thanks the donors and Trust Fund administrators for their support. The fact that it will now receive such support does not, however, relieve Ethiopia of its duty to meet its commitment to the Commission.

(Signed) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission



Security Council

Distr.: General
2 May 2007
English
Original: Arabic

**Letter dated 1 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of
the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the document entitled "Tripoli Consensus on the Political Process for Darfur", which was issued at the conclusion of the international meeting held in Tripoli (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) on 28 and 29 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jadallah Azzouz **Al-Talhi**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Tripoli Consensus on the Political Process for Darfur

At the invitation of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, an international meeting on the situation in Darfur was held in Tripoli on 28 and 29 April 2007. The following States and organizations attended the meeting: Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States, and the United Nations.

The meeting confirmed support for the Addis Ababa conclusions of 16 November 2006, subsequently endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

The participants underlined the urgency of finding a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the Darfur crisis and:

- Expressed grave concern over continued violence and insecurity in Darfur, and urged all parties to immediately cease hostilities and act upon their commitment to uphold a ceasefire without delay;
- Expressed deep concern over the prevailing humanitarian situation and strongly urged all parties to facilitate humanitarian access and delivery. In this context, welcomed the agreement that was reached on 28 March 2007 between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations, and called upon all parties to implement it fully;
- Called for immediate cessation of all attacks against humanitarian workers, AMIS personnel, and their properties;
- Recognized the complementarity of the political and peacekeeping tracks;
- Stressed the need for sustained funding for AMIS until transition to the Hybrid operation, for humanitarian assistance, and for economic recovery and development;
- Stressed that the political process be given priority, and, in this context, reviewed all ongoing initiatives in support of a sustainable political solution to the Darfur crisis and emphasized the importance of continued involvement of regional actors in the process;
- Noted ongoing efforts aimed at cohesion and consolidated positions among the non-signatories, including the SPLM plan to hold a conference of non-signatories, and called for urgent progress of those efforts;
- Agreed on the need for convergence and coordination of all these initiatives under African Union-United Nations lead;
- Urged all parties to demonstrate serious commitment in the political process and accelerate preparations for negotiations;

- Warned all parties that those who obstruct the peace process in Darfur will have to bear the consequences;
- Underlined the need to make the peace process more inclusive and urged the African Union and United Nations to continue engaging with civil society, tribal leaders, internally displaced persons, refugees, and women groups;
- Expressed support for the African Union and United Nations Special Envoys' activities, and encouraged them, in cooperation with regional and other efforts, to intensify consultations and rapidly finalize their road map on a strategy and timeline for renewed negotiations, including format, venue and support required for the mediation team;
- Welcomed the recent positive developments in the relationship between Chad and Sudan and encouraged the two countries to continue the ongoing efforts for the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006 and the subsequent bilateral agreements between the two countries.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Leader of the Revolution and to the Libyan people for hosting this important coordination meeting on the political process for Darfur and for the hospitality extended to the participants.

Tripoli, 29 April 2007

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
3 May 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to draw your attention to the highly alarming Palestinian terror activity carried out against Israel today.

Earlier this morning, Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip launched over 22 Qassam rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities in the south. Hamas, which leads the Palestinian government, claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks.

Later in the day, it was discovered that the rocket attacks were merely a cover to distract attention from Hamas's plan to kidnap an Israeli soldier. Thankfully, the IDF was prepared and thwarted the kidnapping.

Hamas's terror attacks and kidnapping attempt, on Israeli Independence Day no less, are acts of severe provocation. There is no doubt that Hamas chose to perpetrate these attacks today in particular, a day in which we celebrate Israel's historic establishment. Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to Hamas's recent declaration that the ceasefire which had been in place in the Gaza Strip no longer exists. Since the ceasefire went into effect at the end of November 2006, Israel has exhibited continued restraint in responding to the more than 150 rockets fired at it by Palestinian terrorists, as has been reported to you in previous letters.

Once again, the Hamas-led Palestinian government has shown the international community its true colours. Israel needs no further evidence to know that Hamas's ways are not the ways of peace. Hamas has shown it will not stop its campaign of terror against Israel until its unholy ambitions of destroying Israel are fulfilled.

I hope the Security Council will discuss these recent and disturbing developments during its debate tomorrow on the "Situation in the Middle East".

An identical letter has been sent to Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the Security Council. I should also be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated to the members and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

